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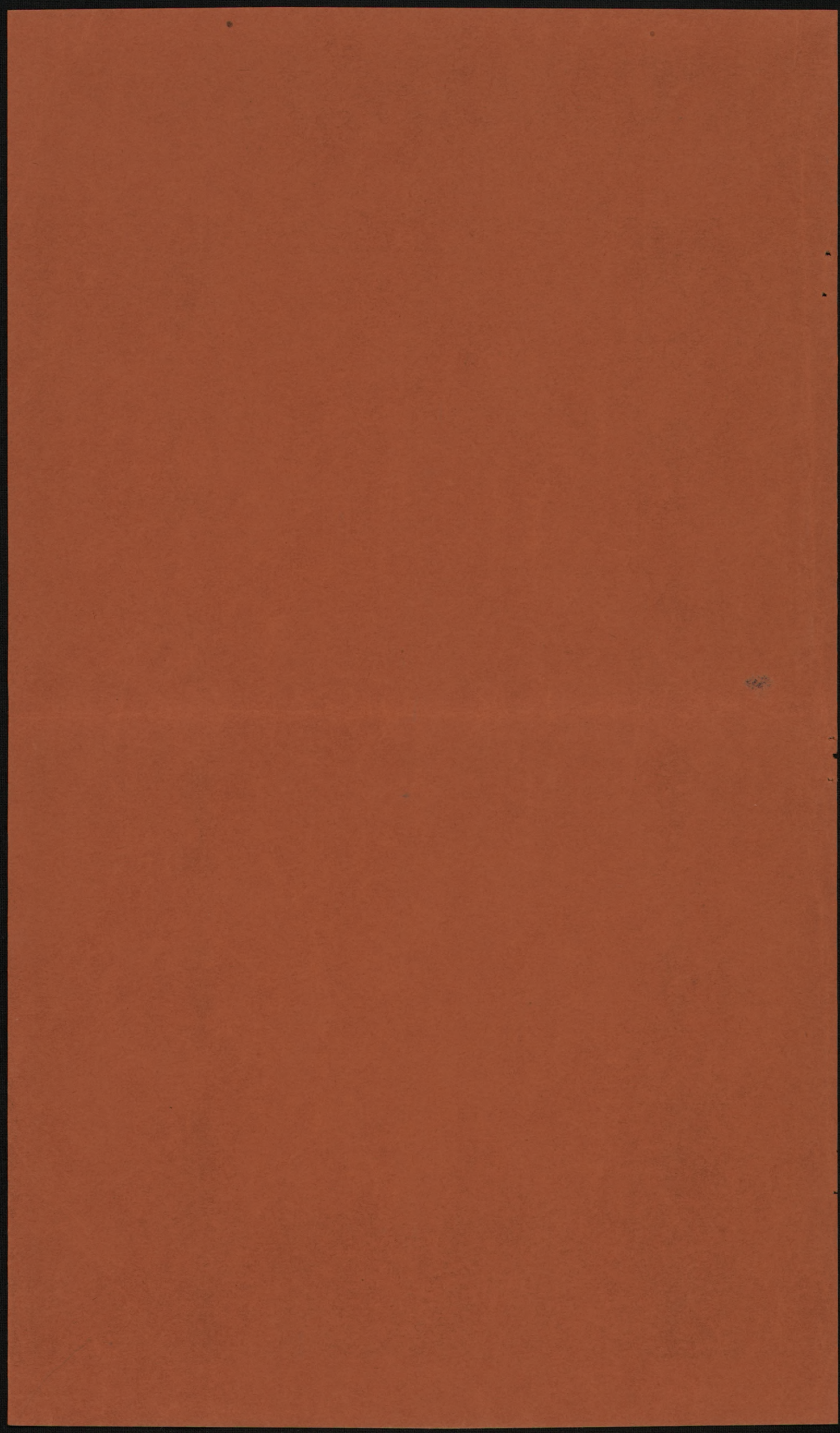
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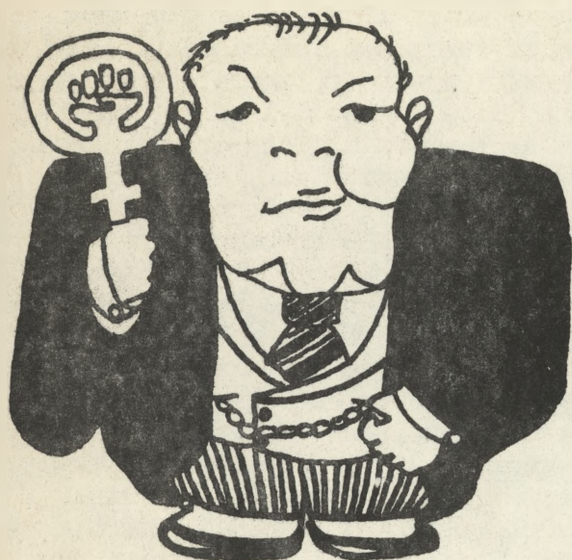
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WOMEN'S LIBERATION, AUCKLAND: October: 15 cents



the old, old story



In 1893 New Zealand women were given the vote in spite of an impassioned opposition by the more reactionary politicians of the time.

Since then women have gradually improved their position in society, although not nearly to the extent that the early feminists envisaged. But we still find that many of our contemporary politicians have attitudes no more enlightened than their earlier colleagues.

Of course these attitudes are not expressed as explicitly, or couched in such rabble-rousing language, but this often makes them harder to attack.

Below are a few quotes from parliamentarians of the 1890s and the 1970s, culled mainly from Hansard and the newspapers, which illustrate this point.

"If there is to be confusion of function as between man and woman what may we not expect next? We shall presently see the man going home and boiling the tea, and frying the chops, and washing the babies, and doing a number of things that are now left to women. Where is this outrageous mixing-up of the sexes to stop when once you begin it?"

(Mr. Fish 1891)

"It is an acknowledged fact that a woman has on the average five ounces less brains than a man."

(Mr. Blake 1890)

"Mr. Hutchinson called suffragettes short-haired he-women, the shrieking sisterhood, the few "who dress without taste and talk slang."

(1891)

Hopefully politicians today show concern with a wider range of issues than did Mr. Fish, who said in 1890: "Fancy a man coming home in the evening after a hard day's work and finding his parlour filled with a lot of noisy or declamatory women talking politics and the man's dinner entirely neglected. Let us picture the scenes of social and domestic discomfort which would follow that."

The way to Mr. Fish's heart was certainly through his stomach. Perhaps the way to Mr. Muldoon's heart calls for more subtle tactics.

"I think women are delightful as women, and the moment they cease to be women they become that much less delightful." (Mr. Muldoon 1971)

"Could we contemplate the situation where a woman getting equal pay is the breadwinner, and the husband stays home and looks after the children? I don't think we could."

(Mr. Muldoon 1971)

"I am not an opponent of women's liberation, but I must admit that I am not always able to follow women's logic."

(Mr. O'Brien 1971)

Sir Roy Jack criticised "all those long-haired demonstrators" as he made the Miss New Zealand presentation, praising the "charm and femininity of the contestants".

(1972)

"I do not know whether many men operate accounting machines in offices. Early in my career I operated one, but men would not want to do that type of work for very long - it is not a type of work for which they are temperamentally suited."

(Mr. Holland 1970)

I help with the dishes at home."

(Mr. McCready 1968)

Right on, brother.

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Hilary Haines

contents

Editorial - The Old Old Story	1
Contents	2
Letters	3
Interview with Mary Kidd	4
Election Questions	5
Politics and the Movement	6
W.E.A. Seminar Report	8
Kicking Against the Pricks	9
Broadsheet Reports	10
Review: The Manipulated Man	11
Coming Events	12

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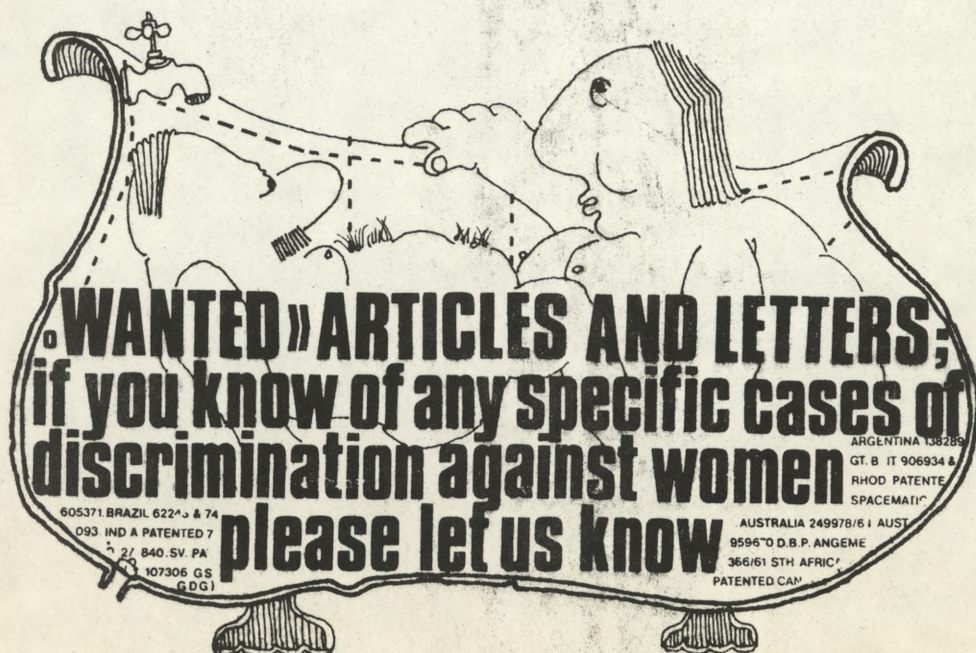
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manifesto

Women's Liberation is a movement for human equality, a movement aimed to liberate women from the deeply imbedded image of their own inferiority. It is a movement aimed to liberate women from narrow, limiting social roles, so that women in New Zealand can grow up facing an open future with many and varied opportunities for development and fulfilment. It is a movement aimed to liberate persons, both men and women from stultifying social roles and stereotypes, in order that men and women may be fairly assessed as persons. It is a movement aimed to encourage more honest and realistic relationships between men and women. It is a movement aimed to improve the quality of life of men, women and children in New Zealand. We see this as possible only through the improvement of the position of women in our society.

deadline for issue 5
monday
november 7

Our next issue will examine alternatives to the present nuclear family structure with husband working and wife staying home caring for the children. If you, or anyone you know have tried alternatives to this set up please write to BROADSHEET with details or get in touch with Sandra Coney, 687-887.



Letters

Dear Broadsheet,

I have just been outraged by a blatant piece of discrimination which personally involves me. I'm a university student and generally work as a hospital aide during the holidays. Recently, while so doing, a memo concerning me came to my attention. It was sent down by the powers that be and noted that as I was married, it wasn't in the Government's best interests to employ me as a vacation worker in the future. The implications were obvious, and the audacity of it was overwhelming. I was being told that I didn't need to work - in fact I virtually had no right to work - I had a husband who should support me and whom I should be dependent on. I have never felt as bitter, angry or discriminated against as I did then. Needless to say, I shall fight that memo all the way. I intend applying again for a job as a hospital aide at the same hospital, and if I'm turned down (I have never been yet and have done several stints at this) I shall raise merry hell.

I might add that apart from my husband paying for rent and food when I'm not working I pay all my own expenses. Moreover I consider I earn my crust and my bed by being quite useful around the house at times. Other hospital aides, students who live at home with their parents and get free accommodation and food, the same as I get, are not discriminated against, yet I am. The only difference is marriage - something I've always treated as an irrelevancy. Now it has become a definite handicap. I never quite realised just how much the hang-up about marriage still abounded until this came up. Now this has made me even more of a dedicated Women's Liberationist.
Name withheld.

Dear Broadsheet,

I have refused to be exploited by not buying stockings and pantyhose. I believe there is a way to make them run-proof, but this does not pay the manufacturer. I also discovered that Crown Lynn potteries have a practically unbreakable type of crockery which they refuse to sell to housewives as they admit it would not pay them to do so. Also they had a man employed at their tip who broke the crockery there to make sure it was no longer useable. I could mention many more instances of this kind of exploitation; the thing is, can anything be done about it, short of a bloody revolution?
Katherine O'Dea.

Dear Broadsheet,

I am impressed about most things in the magazine and agree that women should unite on all issues that affect them. We can apply pressure constantly on those men and women who persist with their biased ideas against women, such as MPs, business men, and advertisers (ever seen the Triple Treat ad?)... I suggest all feminists write to their MPs at regular intervals demanding to know what is going to be done about legal discrimination against women - many MPs are lawyers.

I have written to my own MP, Mr. Highet, suggesting a committee of enquiry be set up to investigate all instances of discrimination in jobs and legal discrimination against women with a view to removing these in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. A report on any findings should be made public.

There are ads in the papers for accountants, engineers, executives, etc., which contain the men we are looking for. The addresses of these firms are printed in the papers and can be published so that we can have a go at them. Because there is so much misunderstanding about Women's Liberation, publication of the Women's Liberation Manifesto could help Public Relations. Interviews in papers, radio and television, e.g. Gallery, handing out leaflets, getting ourselves invited to speak at functions, clubs, etc., with press coverage, public panel discussions, and question and answer sessions could be of tremendous value. Feminists could help young mothers and housewives in their neighbourhood for a little while - that would be practical sisterhood.

Have you noticed the subject material of "Woman's World" in the Herald? Weddings, engagements, and articles about the lucky few who have made the big time. It's the same in the Star. Last time I wrote about this I got a very rude reply from the Herald. (N.Z. Herald, P.O. Box 32, Star, P.O. Box 1409, Auckland.)

Angela Graham



INTERVIEW : Mary Kidd



Mary Kidd, who has recently been announced as the National candidate for Eden, is a widow in her fifties. She has been active in politics for a long time, notably as chairman of the Auckland Central National Party Committee, and feels that it is high time more women came forward in this way.

"There are too few women M.P.s or candidates in either party. I feel that they would do a good job, and that they are needed, especially in Auckland with the growing urban problems people face here - women respond to people and their problems more directly than men do. However, in Eden I shall be standing for everyone, as people, not as men and women, and I will stand as a person, not a woman especially."

"I feel I was selected because I have the experience and the qualifications to do the job; I haven't really felt I was greatly handicapped by being a woman when it came to selection, as I had faith that those responsible would be quite fair and unbiased."

Mrs. Kidd says that if she is elected her major parliamentary interest will be in social welfare. She hopes to see the opportunity for preschool education made universal, although she believes in

the subsidy system (e.g. for kindergartens) as "it gets people involved". She stresses the need for more and better child care centres, staffed by well trained and qualified people, and believes these should be available not solely for working mothers but also for those who cannot cope with twenty-four hour child care on their own "particularly", she says, "the very young mothers we have now. However, I am not saying such centres should be set up right across the board - only where there is a definite need".

We asked whether, in view of just such young mothers and the high illegitimacy rate, she thought the law which makes even contraceptive information for under sixteen year olds illegal should be altered. Mrs. Kidd said she would have to think about that - "as a nurse, I am very much aware of the rising V.D. figures - I believe that the fear of pregnancy is perhaps a deterrent to promiscuity and hence to V.D., and if we remove that deterrent V.D. may increase still more. The answer to the problem is really better sex education - this is vital." She considers the present law on abortion to be quite adequate, and would certainly not like to see abortion on demand.

On equal pay and opportunity - "both these must come, but there is no point in rushing them through. There is still a great deal of opposition from manufacturers and so on who need to see the principle involved correctly. And after all, once we have equal pay, it is here to stay." Mrs. Kidd feels that women should receive, and know the importance of, as good an education as possible, in order to develop their own personalities and abilities to the full. The opportunity to work after marriage should be available "though many women feel that the right time to return to work is when their children are in their early teens - I feel this is a very bad time, as children need so much support and guidance then, and should not be left to their own devices after school perhaps we need after school centres where they can be supervised. A more flexible attitude by employers towards working hours would also help. At the moment there is a lot of wasted talent among women, particularly in highly trained professions such as nursing, where great changes are continually taking place; some retraining scheme is vital if women are to take up their work again."

Generally, though she is strongly behind the "preservation of the family unit", Mrs. Kidd feels "it is time for a re-definition of roles within the family. Women should not have sole responsibility for the menial tasks or for all child care - the father should do his share. Both parents must be prepared to make sacrifices during the children's formative years - for instance, the husband should give up his golf and so on to be with them as much as possible. I do feel that the rearing of children is still a woman's most important role, and that the status of housewife and mother needs to be raised in our society."

Finally, we asked Mrs. Kidd what she thought of the Women's Liberation Movement. She thought that she agreed with some of our aims, though she had an impression that we were "going about things in the wrong way", i.e. in too violent and sensational a manner. She felt that the term itself aroused too much emotion to be effective, and, inevitably, mentioned bra-burning.

She saw Women's Liberationists generally as an unfeminine lot, "going out of their way to make themselves unattractive", and thought this was a pity as women need to make the most of themselves in every way. But she did seem interested in the movement, and in obtaining accurate information about it.

One is always glad to see women coming forward to engage actively in an important field like politics which is too often seen as an exclusively male preserve. Mrs. Kidd says that she waited hopefully for a younger woman to offer herself and no one did. However I feel it would be as foolish to vote for her merely because she is a woman as not to vote for her because of this.

Her ideas about the economic side of our oppression as women are moderately progressive, though her tone (giving up golf, for instance) shows the kind of middle class picture she has in mind. On the question of sexual mores she seems far less enlightened, and this is of course necessary if she stands for 'the preservation of the family unit', since this involves either woman's economic or her sexual exploitation, and possibly both.

Mrs. Kidd is well-meaning, intelligent, and an infinite improvement on the last National member for Eden, the ineffectual Mr. Rae, non-Minister for non-Housing; she may even manage to open the National Party's eyes to some glaring inequalities, which affect women particularly, in the present system.

She was responsible for the passing of a remit on child care centres at the party conference, and she certainly knows her way around politics very well indeed. But the party she belongs to

is on the whole even less likely to take real note of the whole question of women's rights and status in our society than its opponents. Its past record is none too good; still, it is perhaps a sign of hope for the future that Mary Kidd gained the nomination at all.

Good luck to her - she'll need it.

Anne Else.

Election Questions

Questions to ask your candidates:

Take a note of these along to local meetings and see how the candidates measure up. You will probably get a good idea of their general attitude to women and feminist issues from the way they reply, i.e. flippantly or with genuine concern. Background information is provided in brackets.

1. Do you believe that sex education, including contraceptive information, should be given in schools?
2. Would you work for the repeal of the law banning contraceptives or information about them to under sixteen year olds?
3. Do you believe contraception should be free and easily available, and that there should be freely available voluntary sterilization for both men and women? (Tubal ligation available in public hospitals, vasectomy not, though it is simpler, much quicker and less dangerous.)
4. Would you work for liberal reform or repeal of the abortion laws?
5. Do you believe it is urgent for government to give financial aid and encouragement to expanding and improving community child care facilities both short term (non-working mothers) and day care (working mothers)? (There are 35,000 preschoolers with working mothers, only 2,000 day care centre places.)
6. Do you agree that women should be paid an allowance while at home to care for dependent children or relatives?
7. Do you agree with the report of the Commission on Equal Pay? Do you agree with the provisions of the Equal Pay Bill now before Parliament? (Equal pay on award not actual rates for identical not similar work. Not to be completed till 1978.)
8. Do you approve of the way in which non-earning housewives (about 2/3 of New Zealand women) have been entirely omitted from compensation under the Accident Compensation Bill?

Politics and the Movement

During the years since the last general election Women's Liberation has become an increasingly popular focus for seriousminded and concerned women interested in the ambiguities and anomalies that confront the modern woman in her everyday existence. Women's Liberation groups have been formed in most parts of the country to create a forum within which a woman may seek equality of respect at the personal level and the identity of a legitimate worker at the social and economic level.

And now, with election time drawing near, questions concerning political efficacy are being raised. Will Women's Liberation have any effect on future New Zealand politics? How do matters of concern to women relate to the national political scene at this particular time? And what remains to be done?

At the personal level our progress is difficult to measure. It must be assumed that more and more women are being encouraged to "help themselves" and question their roles as a result of contact with Women's Liberation groups. Eventually, as women become aware of their tremendous political potential this realization may transform itself into political action. But at this stage the emphasis is on socializing rather than activating.

At the economic and political levels progress is a little clearer to determine, especially for such issues as equal pay, childcare and birth control (including abortion law reform), which, due to publicity, have become nationwide in impact over the past months.

Other matters of concern to women, such as accident compensation for the mother working in the home, women's rights, sex education and discrimination in education, are important but unlikely to make any great impact this year. The dependency allowance issue is perhaps a happy exception. Mr. Kirk is on record as saying that although he is in favour of equal pay he fears that it will widen the gap between the "working" woman and the housewife and suggests that a "dependency allowance" be added to the social security benefit scheme for mothers caring for pre-schoolers, adults caring for disabled relatives, and solo fathers.

(Auckland Star May 10 1972)

The equal pay issue will be resolved before the election and the fact that legislation will have been passed will, despite its probable loopholes and com-

promises, be enough to satisfy most parties. The fact that this issue reached the legislation stage, however, is in itself a milestone and full credit must be given to the Council for Equal Pay and Opportunity, which has the active support of Women's Liberation groups all over the country.

Unfortunately, however, the battle has not been fully won. The threatened sex discrimination in hiring and firing which will begin as awards expire must be met with well-directed protest, endless visits to the Arbitration Court and a united effort on the part of Women's Liberation groups to obtain a sex discrimination amendment to the recent Race Relations Act.

The childcare problem, a fairly broad issue, covers the creation of childcare facilities for all working parents who need them, government subsidization for such facilities and professional training for day care centre staff.

The birth control issue, again a broad one, focuses on sex education in schools, contraceptive advice to those under sixteen, free contraceptive equipment and drugs, a larger role for the Family Planning Association with the help of increased government subsidies, and abortion law reform.

These are national issues but unlike the equal pay issue they have not reached the legislation stage. Politically, what stage have we reached with the childcare and birth control issues? In June the N.Z. Childcare Association with the help of concerned women's groups circulated a petition on childcare calling for government initiative and financial aid in providing adequately supervised childcare centres for the 30,000 pre-schoolers needing such facilities. Submissions to Parliament's Social Services Committee are now underway and the future looks fairly bright according to NOW Secretary, Deirdre Milne, who predicts that "adequate childcare will be effective within the next year or two." The problem concerning the training of centre staff has still to be reviewed. Perhaps the National Candidate for Eden, Mary Kidd, who favours the childcare concept, could make this her objective if she captures the seat?

Neither the Labour nor National Party has made a definitive statement regarding childcare and it appears that both may be open to persuasion. Both appear to pay lipservice to the idea when it seems appropriate to do so. Perhaps

some additional pressure during these pre-election weeks might commit candidates to the issue?

The birth control issue is making little progress compared with equal pay and childcare. Both political parties are vehemently opposed to abortion law reform, both placidly ignore the question of contraceptive sales and instruction to those under sixteen, and neither seems sympathetic to the idea of free contraceptives, although this may evolve as the Family Planning Association becomes an integral part of every community.

While individual groups, such as the Christchurch Women's Liberation group, are campaigning for the repeal of the under-sixteen clause in the 1954 Police Offences Act, the general policy appears to be one of quiet defiance. As with childcare, the best tactic right now lies in confronting candidates with these questions and eliciting a definite response from them.

Even though these issues per se will have no measurable effect on the election outcome in November they should be constantly raised and discussed, particularly in the presence of politicians and candidates, in order to influence subsequent elections. The NOW Executive in Auckland is attempting such tactics. Executive members are inviting candidates to their homes for informal discussions with interested members of the electorate and NOW members are attending political meetings and asking questions relevant to the birth control, childcare, dependency allowance and equal pay issues. Emphasis is on giving a candidate the facts on a given issue, particularly when his or her response reflects little detailed knowledge. The Organization hopes to reach all candidates in the Auckland area, including sitting members and marginal seats. To date the response from candidates asked to attend meetings in the homes has been favourable. Most seem "happy to meet".

The Women's movement, particularly political activist groups like New Zealand's NOW and Australia's Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL), will have to contend with the fact that most New Zealand women today are not politically minded. This is reflected in the survey summarized in Urban Women in which no mention is made of political party affiliation, preferences, or activities. Had such information been included in the questionnaire, it might have been possible to determine the relationship between women's employment (including housework) and patterns of party support.

In a recent paper presented to the Australasian Political Studies Association in August 1972, Nigel Roberts observes that "men account for 78% of the political letter writers and men were nearly three times as likely to

have written to an M.P. as were women". Interestingly, his research reveals no difference between men and women signing petitions; "54.5% of men and 53.5% of women have signed a petition". Even though women have been voting since 1893 there are at present only four women M.P.s.

Amongst the more important aims of a protest movement is the emphasis on involvement. Involvement was present during the equal pay negotiations, for example, when many women contacted their union officials as a result of leafletting by Women's Liberation members and this helped bring the issue to the legislation stage. Involvement by many will be necessary to bring the childcare and birth control issues into Parliamentary focus.

Social Science research has shown us that women as a group have a lower turnout rate than men at elections, and that they tend to be more conservative than men when confronted with controversial issues. New Zealand women are no exception. They tend to show a slight preference for National rather than Labour. And the equal pay legislation and recent changes in Social Security benefits are likely to increase the women's vote for the National Party in November. In local politics, too, women tend to be more conservative than men.

It can be expected, therefore, that controversial issues like birth control will elicit conservative responses from the majority of New Zealand women. Women's Liberation groups believe that public opinion must be changed to favour such issues. But how can this be done?

The answer may lie in an observation by Professor S.M. Lipset in his Political Man (p.243). Lipset finds that leftist voting among ethnic and religious minorities is the result of perceived need for (1) security of income, (2) satisfying work and (3) status. The key phrase here is "perceived need". Thus the key task of Women's Liberation is to help women perceive their needs. This can be done by means of informal meetings, seminars similar to the recent "Women in the Modern World" seminar and public debates and by active participation in controversial issues.

Many women, of course, are already involved. But much more woman power will be needed if Women's Liberation issues are to influence party policy and political platforms in the 1970s.

Wyn Hoadley
Mt. Albert
October 4 1972



seminar report

On Saturday September 16 over 300 women (and some men) came to a seminar entitled "Women in the Modern World" held in Auckland. W.F.A., who organised the seminar, were overwhelmed by the number who attended - the highest attendance for such a meeting organised by them. The Ellen Melville Hall was packed with people sitting on the floor and on tables.

Dr. Ruth Black (FPA) spoke first on the desirability of more effective family planning and the obstacles in its way. She told us that a survey conducted by Dr. Erich Geiringer had shown that of 60,000 births in New Zealand in 1969, 30,000 were unplanned and half of these were unwanted. Obviously our means of disseminating contraceptive information are inadequate. Dr. Black stressed the inter-relationship of family planning and the status of women and said "maternal aspiration" must in the future be considered as a reason for limiting families.

In contrast, Sheila McMillan's vague and unenlightened talk on women and education told us little we did not know and failed to offer any constructive solutions to the problems involved for women fulfilling their "various roles", which she saw in a very conventional light. Despite lip service to "equal" education, it was clear that she believed girls alone needed to be prepared at school for "family life" and she failed to grasp the implications of feminine socialisation from the primers on as a barrier to vocational education.

Professor Marie Clay followed with a comprehensive examination of solo parenthood; a good point was that society sees nothing wrong with creating "job widows" who add to this group. Solo mothers need contacts and an area of competence outside the home - part-time work is one way of providing this. "We must marshal society's resources at the time of crisis to reorient solo parents" she said. Present practices, e.g., solo mothers clustered together in housing, automatic reduction of benefits when earning and the present maintenance system create more problems than they solve.

June Phillips of the Play Centre Movement got a warm reception. She, more than most of the other speakers, seemed to grasp that liberation for women will only come with a rethinking of the present system, and not by making improvements to make it easier to live within. She suggested a complete reordering of society in which parenthood would be recognised for the important job it is, and both parents would share equally in child-rearing and employment. "We have robbed our fathers of the enjoyment of their children for too long," she said. She advocated the involvement of the whole family in day care centres, designed to educate, not just mind, the pre-school child, and restructured working hours for both men and women to increase time at home.

Unfortunately, the high standard of the morning was not on the whole continued in the afternoon. Ms. J.P. Harawira spoke on "The Double Burden Maori Women Bear" which was pretty unmemorable, but as she was a last minute replacement it would be unfair to comment further.

Connie Purdue, who was meant to speak on "Social Equality for New Zealand Women", took it upon herself to throw out what could have been the most important address of the day and delivered instead an advertisement for the various organisations in which she is involved. An ill-informed attack on Women for Equality was also out of place on this occasion.

Things perked up a bit with Sue Kedgeley's talk on "Women in New Zealand Politics." Lack of confidence was a massive barrier to women entering politics, she said. Even active female party members reacted with horror, when it was suggested they stand for parliament. Women in political parties tend to be given "sandwich making and behind the scenes roles" and were treated patronisingly by male party members.

Finally Kath Knight spoke on the work of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and gave some horrifying figures about arms spending which made clear the urgent need for the political involvement of women.

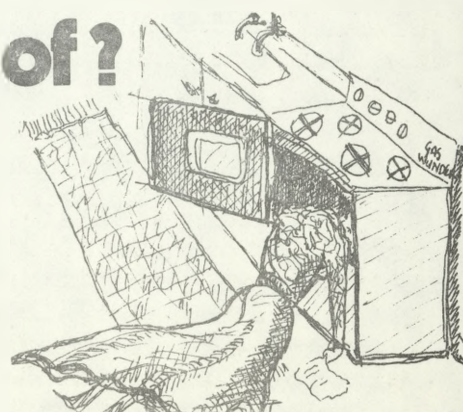
What do little girls dream of?

Puppies. Pantomimes. Party dresses. Dolls. Tea sets and such. Beauty quests. The boy next door. Even one day, far in the distant future, her own kitchen.

Not like Mum's for certain.

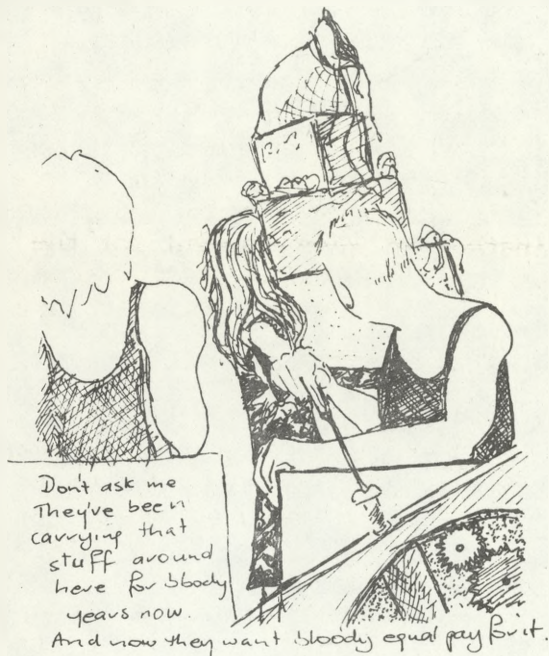
And when, in a short, short 10 years time the dream becomes reality, what will her dream kitchen be like?

Just as products like +++ and +++ surfaces - and flooring - helped revolutionise today's kitchens . . . new +++ products on the drawing boards and in the laboratory will help you revolutionise tomorrow's. So think ahead. Plan for the future - +++ won't be far behind you. You see, we know what little girls dream of, too.



kicking against the pricks

Employers, while supporting traditional male female labour division have proved themselves no gentlemen in opposing equal pay. Mr. D.I. Wood of Arthur Barnett Ltd. (a department store in Dunedin) said if they had to given women equal pay they would do without them and concentrate on customer self-service. "...Should a female selling reels of cotton or wrapping gift cards, which have been selected by the customer, be paid the same as a carpet or furniture salesman who must have skilled ability to advise on colour, quality, correct measurements and methods of making up and laying?" Earlier Mr. F.B. Thorn of the Clothing Workers' Union said "Employers are threatening many women with the sack or heavy labour if equal pay is implemented. Threats ofhaving to lift heavy bolts of cloth ...are common. Some women ring me up in an awful state after being threatened by their bosses with replacement by men."



New Zealand Women's magazines have lately been taking a snide interest in women's liberation. August Eve followed a quiz on "How Sexy Are You?" ("Your sexual appetites and attitudes provide a revealing portrait of you as a woman ...") with a look at the feminist movement. More space was devoted to Sappho than to the movement here and local Women's Liberation groups were (apart from NOW) dismissed as "small, mostly radical and fairly extreme". Later they spoke about the "crudities of youthful lib groups." I just couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the main article, a "Who's Who in N.Z. Women's Lib?" Together with candid photos (except for one sensible type from Wellington NOW who said they wanted group involvement not personalities. Hear Hear) were pen portraits of what were assumed to be the cream of New Zealand's feminists.

It was a typical magazine approach to concentrate on personalities rather than group issues and action; it enlightened noone outside the movement and surprised many within it.

The League of Mothers National Council in Auckland came up with the idea that joyful housewifery is the answer to the demands of women's liberation. They might think the housewife's job is important but society does not. Before Parliament at the moment is the Accident Compensation Bill which specifically excludes women from cover as they are not 'earners'. As a housewife if you are disabled by any accident (apart from in a car) you will get a big fat NOTHING. Who is going to take over the care of your home? Where is your husband going to get the money to pay for a housekeeper, nursing assistance in the home etc.? Nobody cares, least of all the Government.

A great hou-ha followed the news that eight women had had abortions after having German measles. "We didn't arrange it" said Mr. Clean-Hands Adam Schneider. In the Herald a letter said "If parents can't care for their deformed children, there are public institutions available that can". The best reply to criticism was a feature in the Herald a few days later about a woman trying to cope with her 7 year old mentally retarded child. "My girls (aged 10 and 8) have to shut themselves in their bedroom when they want to play because he bites and hits them. ...Gerald's IQ is below 25. He isn't toilet trained and he can't dress himself. He doesn't know what danger is - he will walk straight into the fire. I have to take him with me everywhere, even into the toilet, he can't speak a word."

Why do speakers at predominately male functions feel it necessary to make patronizing remarks to the women present? Mr. Muldoon, at a dinner at the National Credit Management Conference on October 17 started his speech by saying how glad he was that the creditmen had brought their wives. (Didn't he notice that a number of women were themselves attending the conference!) He hoped his speech would not "bore the wives" but said he was glad they were there as they made "the room much more attractive". It is nice to know that we serve some purpose but wouldn't it have been cheaper to use flowers. They at least don't eat.

broadsheet report

Knowhow Contraception Advice Centre opens October 31st at the Citizens Advice Bureau, Queen St. For further information phone Sharyn Cederman, 74-974.

Sisters

"Sisters", which stands for "Sisters in Struggle to end Repressive Sexism", is a women's liberation group, concentrating on the repeal of all abortion laws. Abortion should be the key issue concerning feminists as it is a basic form of oppression, and it is likely to introduce many women to a feminist consciousness. We also want free, easily available contraception and sterilisation. We hope to make abortion an election issue and we will picket meetings and hand out leaflets. If you want to become involved in this issue attend meetings of the Abortion Action Committee held at Auckland University. For times ring Michael Rea 378-425.

Our group does not allow men at meetings as we, as women must gain self-confidence trust and leadership qualities. We have discussions on books, issues and oppression every Monday night at 7.30 p.m. at 14 Whittaker Place and will hold forums at University at which specific topics will be discussed.

Women for Equality

In the last few weeks we have leafletted various factories about equal pay. We did quite well with our equal pay leaflet at the recent W.E.A. seminar on women. We also sold books, posters, badges, etc.

The leaflet made three important points about the Equal Pay Bill:

1. Equal pay will be for identical* work (not similar, as recommended by the Commission).
2. It will be based on basic award rates (not 'actual' rates as recommended).
3. The timetable for implementation has been deferred by a year, with further delays likely, although the Commission recommended a start by April 1st 1972.

The leaflet urged women to attend the September 21st meeting of the Auckland City Trades Council of the Federation of Labour. Here we handed out leaflets to delegates urging them to support us. The following resolution was passed:

* This has since been altered.

That the Executive of the F.O.L. publish an Equal Pay booklet similar to that published by the Trade Union Congress in Britain. It will be based on a draft copy submitted by the Auckland Clerical Workers Union and the New Zealand Engineers Union.

On Sunday 24 September we attended the meeting called by the Equal Pay and Opportunity Council at the Great Northern Hotel. We found that it was basically a Labour Party election platform, apart from speakers Ella Ayo and Judy Attenburger.

We have been meeting at the Family and Naval Hotel on Friday nights for a general get-together, anyone welcome. Jenny Harvey, Bronwyn Banks.

N.O.W.

Our next monthly meeting will be on November 6 in the Grotto Room of the Royal International Hotel, Victoria St. - the subject is as yet undecided. But there are other groups - on child care, home help, education, contraception, equal pay - which meet irregularly and welcome visitors.

Our most important task during the next weeks is to interest as many women as possible in the election.

We are preparing political questions which we hope members will ask at election meetings. Most interesting are the meetings being arranged in suburbs so that local members and friends can meet the candidates they will be voting for (or against). These meetings can be very revealing and are a real aid to those who want to vote for the person and the issues, not just the party.

We would welcome anyone who wants to join in these cottage meetings - ring Deirdre Milne (689-682) and find out the dates for your electorate.

After the seminar on "Women in the Modern World" a sterilization Action Committee was formed. This is not specifically a NOW group - it already contains members from several groups. It will meet soon and we would like to contact anyone already working on this subject. There is a feeling in official circles that it might be possible to get some positive action if public opinion were to support it. So let's rouse some public opinion and all cooperate on this. (Phone 689-682).

NOW made submissions to the House on the Equal Pay Bill and to the Social Services Committee of Parliament on the Childcare Petition - now we can only wait and see if this has any results.

Palmerston North

We have established research and action groups on:

Aid to Single Mothers - needs continuing support. Information pamphlet on aid is being distributed. Intend working to change laws and practices discriminating against the single mother.

Abortion Law Reform - relies on volunteers for public meetings, abortion week, etc.

Day Care Group - apathy on this important issue is most frustrating. Karen Sutton has visited pre-school centres, delivered leaflets, etc. but more support is needed. Phone 85-968 to help.

Sex Education - such topics as repeal of under 16's contraceptive law, sex education in schools, V.D. Clinic for Palmerston North, free contraceptives and sterilization, lesbian issue, community attitudes, under discussion. For this group phone Pam 81-290.

We have also held a demonstration to mark Suffrage Day, attended a lecture on chastity and a SPUC dinner, and are planning a public meeting with politicians on October 9.

Secretary Pam Benson ph. 81-290

Treasurer Liz Danks ph. 72-724

Wellington

Help has been arranged for members with babysitting problems, and committee meetings have been combined with consciousness-raising.

We are improving our public speaking techniques as much as possible. A sheet of questions for political candidates is being distributed and we hope to get enough filled and returned to publish a survey of the results. These sheets can be ordered from the address below.

Wellington Organisation for Women
P.O. Box 662
Wellington.

Dunedin

A general group meeting was held on Sept. 24 at which two lawyers spoke and answered questions on women's legal rights; we intend to print their talk and sell it for a minimal amount. We now have Committees on Abortion, Child-care, Equal Pay, Women in Trade Unions, Publicity, Research and Contraception. The Abortion Committee is planning a survey to take place in November, and the Contraception Committee is trying to set up a centre to give pregnancy tests cheaply.

We even have four members who travel fifty miles from Balclutha to our meetings.

Four members of the Collective are on the new Committee of the Unmarried Mothers Association which has approved its constitution.

A telegram has been sent to the National Council of Women conference protesting against their vote to prevent people under sixteen getting advice on contraception.

The Human Values Party has integrated many of our demands into their platform, but we have not committed ourselves yet. Copies of our six-week 'Course' are available at 20 cents; 26 pages, 6 articles, an introduction, sexrole socialization, abortion, exploitation, women in the labour force and feminist action. (BROADSHEET has seen this and it is excellent - we recommend it.) It can be ordered from P.O. Box 446, Dunedin. DUNEDIN COLLECTIVE FOR WOMAN

REVIEW - THE MANIPULATED MAN
by Esther Vilar.

Abelard-Schuman, 1971

Esther Vilar, 36, sometime doctor, student of psychology and sociology, translator, saleswoman, assembly-line worker, model for shoes, secretary and mother, (apparently in that order) has boarded the bandwagon of feminism and given birth to a monster, shedding any last vestiges of professional dignity she may once have had.

Previous reviews have suggested that her thesis was not unattractive, at least intellectually; that men are exploited by women, who at an early age elect for themselves a life of prostitution by which they manipulate men into marriage and the role of eternal provider, in exchange for carefully regulated sexual rewards. Ms. Vilar fails totally to give any credence to her theory. A compounded series of reprehensible inaccuracies, incomprehensible generalizations, blatant unscientific untruths, presented in an entirely illogical and irrational manner hardly constitutes a convincing defence of any position.

One would think that the patent absurdities of her logic (or lack of it) would be immediately apparent to even the least discerning of her readers. And yet this would appear not to be so. To me the most appalling aspect of this book lies not so much in its contents (after all anyone can write a bad book) as in the favourable acclaim with which it has been so universally received by ostensibly intelligent men (one must assume). Are men so gullible that they fall ready prey to the captive charms of Ms. Vilar and her facile reasoning? If so, it rather belies her own appraisal of the male species as "strong, intelligent and imaginative". Any "weak, unimaginative, stupid", "useless in every sphere" female could immediately see Ms. Vilar's book for what it really is: crap.

confid...

But judge for yourselves. I include further titbits to whet your appetite. (They are not, I assure you, taken out of context.)

"Man is a creature of beauty as opposed to woman, because man, unlike woman, has a mind."

"A woman is much less capable of any real depth of feelings (than man)!"

"Women are getting increasingly more stupid, while men grow more and more intelligent."

"Woman....is incapable of abstract thought".

"Woman's stupidity is so overwhelming that anyone who comes into contact with it will become, in a way, contaminated by it".

A few words to those who out of curiosity or sheer masochism (and Ms. Vilar maintains that the former is an attribute of men alone, still want to read the book:

1. Borrow it, DON'T buy it. I hate to think of E.V. making money out of us.
2. Before beginning to read, betake yourself to some deserted beach or mountain top, that is if your neighbours tend to get upset by an uninterrupted barrage of earthy expletives.
3. Once read, join me in this week's game .. imagine you are Ms. Vilar's psychoanalyst ...

Jann
Dunedin Collective for Woman.

Coming Events

AUCKLAND WOMEN'S LIBERATION

Next Meetings **SECONDARY TEACHERS**
Oct. 31 **COLLEGE, AUCKLAND**
Phoebe Meikle **LIBRARY**
7.30 p.m.
Flat 1, 25A Princes Street
Nov. 14
Nov. 28

at Flat 1, 25A Princes Street

For further information phone
Sandra Coney 687-887
Sharyn Cederman 74-974

BUILDING CENTRE: WOMEN for EQUALITY:

WOMEN'S LIBERATION WEEK: JANUARY 22-27
planning meeting, Oct. 25 at 7.45pm
10 Ponsonby Road.
HELP and IDEAS NEEDED.



NEW PAMPHLETS FROM ENGLAND

Lee Comer: The Myth of Motherhood.

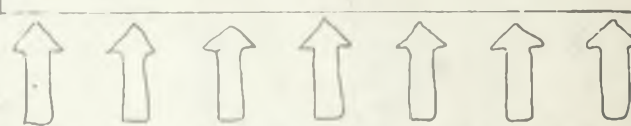
Mariarosa Dellacosta and Selma James:
The Power of Women and the subversion
of the Community.

Alexandra Kollontai: Sexual Relations
and the Class Struggle, Love and the
New Morality, Women Workers and the
Class Struggle.

Sheila Rowbotham: Bibliography of
Women's Liberation, Women's Liberation
and the New Politics.

- and other titles -

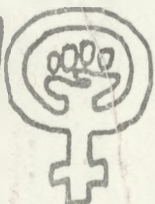
For order sheets write to
PROJECT BOOKS, P.O. Box 704, Auckland.



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